

P20416.A08

the at least one suction element being positioned at least one of:

within the forming element; and

adjacent the area of the separation point,

wherein the inner and outer belts separate from each other immediately following the forming element.

22. (Amended) A former for producing a tissue web, comprising:

a forming element, an inner dewatering belt, and an outer dewatering belt;

the inner and outer belts converging to form a stock inlet nip;

the inner and outer belts being guided over the forming element and thereafter separating from one another in the area of a separation point;

a conditioning device positioned adjacent the outer belt; and

at least one suction element being positioned at least one of:

within the forming element; and

adjacent the area of the separation point,

wherein the inner and outer belts separate from each other immediately following the forming element.